MR. C. N. TUPPAN NAMBUTIRI (*Jennies*): ആയുർവേദ ചികിത്സകൊണ്ടു സാധാരണ ക്ലേശത്തിൽ ഉപയോഗം ജനങ്ങൾക്കുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതറിയാമൊ?

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Senior Surgeon, Women's Medical Services*): No, I do not think that the Ayurvedic Dispensary will meet all the needs of the people as an Allopathic Dispensary would.

With regard to the third item, a sum of Rs. 75 per mensem was given to the British Dispensary at Tekkadi for attending to the needs of the P. W. D. coolies and other Government servants at Kumili. But as the British Government have removed their Dispensary to Periyar, our people at Kumili are left without medical aid. If the House will sanction this expenditure, the dispensary can be opened from Edavam this year.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: May I take it that the House sanctions this demand.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether there was any representation from the people of Kumili for a Dispensary there?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mrs. Lukose has resumed her seat. You cannot put a question to her now.

The demand was put and carried.

DEMAND XIX. SCIENTIFIC AND MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 105 under Demand XIX—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments. This is required for appointing an additional Library Assistant on Rs. 20 and one Library Attendant on Rs. 15. It was reported by the Honorary Secretary in charge of the Public Library that the present staff of the Institution is utterly inadequate to cope with the heavy work of that Institution. It was said that the present staff for attending to the issue of books in the Book Room consists of one Assistant Librarian and one attendant. And there are five other attendants; four of them are attached to the Reading Rooms, two attendants are in the Members' Room and two attendants in the General Reading Room. These attendants, have to attend from early morning at seven o'clock to eight in the evening so that they have to do it by turns. Of the two attendants attached to the Members' Room, one takes turn in the morning and another in the evening. Then there is another attendant known as the relieving attendant, and his services are used for taking turns on Sundays.

Now the work in the Book Room has increased very largely. From statistics we see that while there were only 95 members in 1095, in 1100, the number of members was 185. Under eight-anna subscribers, the number has increased from 49 to 100 and the number of

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

four-anna subscribers has increased from 150 to 255. The real test however lies in the volume of the work of issuing and receiving books. In 1095, the number of volumes issued and received were 8,993; in 1100, it rose up to 20,000. It is evident that the small staff of one Library Assistant and one attendant is quite inadequate to do this work. The attendant now asked for is for the Reference Room. At present, the Reference Room is not generally kept open as there is no one to be in charge of it. The general readers are not therefore admitted into the room. What is proposed is to post the attendant in that room so that he may be present there and attend on the readers who visit the Reading Room. Thus they will also have the privilege of using the Reference Room. This is the necessity for the staff.

I may also say that the Honorary Secretary presented to Government a larger scheme. He wanted three additional Library Assistants and one Library Attendant. But that scheme was in connection with improving the system of work in the institution. Government have now decided that all that is necessary for the present is one Library Assistant and one attendant to cope with the increasing work that has come to the institution.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, I beg to oppose the demand. As I was able to gather from Mr. George, the additional attendant on Rs. 15 is required to be present in the Reference Room in the Public Library so that the readers and all other persons who may resort to that Reference Room may have the benefit of an attendant to them. As it is, I know that the Members of the Library have free access to the Reference Room. Even other people, whether the Library authorities understand them to be Members or not, have got occasional access into the Reference Room. So then, for the purpose of regulating the presence of persons in the Library, what is now demanded is the employment of an attendant. That is the main purpose of the attendant. The Reference Library itself was originally reserved practically for the Members of the Library, for it was considered that persons who wanted to have such advantages must pay for them. The ordinary four-anna or eight-anna subscriber, as the case may be, is entitled to certain privileges. They may have old newspapers and back volumes of old magazines. They are welcome to these things.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Are these privileges incapable of being expanded?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): They are. But as matters stand at present this is the position.

Then, my friend referred to the larger issue of books from the Public Library. That does not need the presence of an attendant. What the mischief that has to be averted by the presence of the attendant is has not been clearly specified. That is a point upon which emphasis has to be laid. Then a Library Assistant on Rs. 20 is also wanted. The Honorary Secretary seems to report on the necessity of such a functionary also. When this need was realised by the Honorary Secretary is not clear. The expansion of the library is not a matter which took place

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

during the course of a few days or a few months. Mr. George himself compared the figures for ten years or so ago with the present figures. If he made a comparison with the intermediate stages, he may not be able to make out a case for the additional establishment.

The expansion of the Public Library might have taken place subsequent to the year he was prepared to quote. So, till a few years past, the present staff was considered sufficient for the maintenance of the library. This demand for supplementary grant does not deserve much encouragement. The Honorary Secretary has submitted a wider scheme to the Government but it is not before the House now. My friend can put it forward before the House at the time of the next budget. If the scheme is worthy of acceptance, as Mr. Kumaran seems to hint, by widening the scope of the library, then the whole question may be properly discussed when the next budget is being considered. There is nothing like an emergency in respect of this demand and I fail to see why such a demand should be put forward as a supplementary demand. So I am sorry I have to oppose it.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Sir, I want to say a word in support of this demand, and in doing so, let me point out to my friend Mr. Narayana Pillai that the demand for the additional attendant is not to avert any mischief but to assist the serviceableness of the library. It was pointed out, I think, at the time of the last budget discussion that there was a scheme. I was myself victim to a good deal of inconvenience caused by the dearth of attendants in the Public Library. I am entirely at one with Mr. Narayana Pillai and also with Mr. Kumaran when he implied that the usefulness of the institution could be very well expanded especially with regard to the Reference Room. I may make a selfish suggestion, namely, that it may be open to the Members of this House especially when they have to deal with the history and politics of the State. They have only recourse to the Legislative Council Library. When the Public Library is in a better position so far as equipment is concerned, it may be placed at the disposal of the Members; when they casually come here or when they attend the Council, they may go to it and refer to the books. So I am for the demand for the additional attendant. I think I cannot in justice oppose the demand.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I also support the demand. In fact, when the matter came up before the Finance Committee, the Honorary Secretary's scheme was placed before them. His demand was not for one Library Assistant and one Attendant but for many more. In the Finance Committee also we heard the figures from Mr. George. He gave us the figures for 1095 and 1101. I put Mr. George the same question which Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai put to him to-day. It was found that, as a matter of fact, the volume of work had increased considerably even during recent years. It was further noticed—and this fact might be known to all who visit the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Public Library—that the members and subscribers, who go there for taking books, go there largely in the evenings between 4 and 6. There is only one Library Assistant to record the receipts as well as the issue, and it is one of the senior attendants that is being deputed to assist this Library Assistant in his work. Yet several of the members and subscribers have to wait for a long time to get the books in time. Until and unless an improved system is introduced in the Public Library for issue and receipt of books, it is absolutely essential that the convenience of the members and subscribers, who pay for the privilege of taking books and reading journals, are attended to properly and promptly. It may also be stated in this connection that, in fact, the increase in the establishment charges will not be found to be out of proportion to the subscriptions realised from the members and subscribers. For payment of money, services ought to be rendered properly and promptly. In that respect, the suggestion of the Government, to enhance the strength of the staff, of the Public Library has to be welcomed.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*) : Does the question come properly under a demand for supplementary grant?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : As for that matter I have always been expressing my disapproval, in the strongest terms possible, of the practice of the Government in bringing out measures of this nature in the middle of the year. But unfortunately this practice has come to stay and we have only—we *can* only—to remind the other side of the House of its duty and responsibility in regard to this matter, *viz.*, to see that such measures are brought up at the proper time, *viz.*, at the time of the budget. But, eventually, when it involves considerable inconvenience to the non-official public itself, I suppose it is our duty to adjust ourselves to it.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Do you press your objection, Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : Many of my friends on this side of the House seem to be of the same opinion as Mr. George. So I am not very particular of my own view in the matter.

The demand was put to the vote and carried. The grant was made.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 890. This is required for the continuance of the Archæological Department till the end of 1101.

In the budget for the current year, provision was made for this department only for 6 months. The idea was to close the work after that. But, during the budget discussion, the members of this House expressed themselves strongly in favour of the continuance of this department. It was said that a great deal of archæological research work yet remains to be done and that it would be a retrograde step to abolish a department which works to promote the cultural advancement

[Mr. K. George.]

of the State. Government then promised to take up the question of continuing the department after Makaram 1101. The question was accordingly brought up before Government by the Superintendent of Archæology who has since left the Travancore service. The term of office of the Superintendent, Mr. Ramanatha Aiyar, expired and he reverted to British service. Now the proposal before the House is to continue the department, with its present staff but without the Superintendent, for the rest of the year.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know the nature of the work that would be turned out by the present staff without the Superintendent?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): I have got a list of the items of work that they are doing. The Pandit Assistant who is in charge of the institution now has reported to Government the nature of the work that the department is now doing. I will just read out from his report.

The index to the Travancore Archæological series, Volume IV, consisting of three parts, has been prepared completely in manuscripts and typed and a portion of the index has been checked for sending to Mr. A. S. Ramanatha Aiyar for his approval. The pages of proof of Vol. VI, Part II, received from Mr. A. S. Ramanatha Aiyar after his correction were examined and sent to the Press with the necessary corrections, and after filling up the omission left to be done by getting them verified with the office records and impressions. Copies of Vol. V, Part II, of the Travancore Archæological series, were distributed to Colleges and institutions in and outside the State. Some pages of final proof of the Travancore Archæological series, Vol. VI have been received from the Press and they have been looked into and returned to the Press the necessary corrections being made with the aid of impressions. Some of the *olai* documents from the Central Vernacular Records bearing on the old and modern history of Travancore are being transcribed. As there are no up-to-date list of books, periodicals and furniture in the office, these are also under preparation.

This is the work that they are now doing. For the present, Government do not propose to entertain a Superintendent. Only the usual routine work of the institution is being carried on by the staff at present.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I beg to oppose the motion. It is true that a majority of the non-official Members of this house asked for the continuance of the Archæological Department. But we asked for the *work* to be continued and not merely the *staff*. Now we have come to a state of affairs in which the man who has got to do the real work, the Superintendent, the learned man, is not there. There are only the peons and the clerks. The head is removed and there is only the body or the corpse as it were. It was not for the mere fun of it that we asked for the continuance of the department. But it is for real

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

work. There was no Superintendent for the last so many months and even now Government do not propose to appoint one. They are only going to have the staff of clerks and peons. There is absolutely no necessity to have a number of peons and clerks in the office. There is not much meaning in saying that they are investigating or unearthing the history of Travancore. That is something like duping. Therefore, I would strongly oppose this demand for the Archæological Department unless Government assure us that they are going to appoint a capable Superintendent to continue the work.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): There is a good deal of work to be done by the present staff. They are completing the work which Mr. Ramanatha Aiyar was carrying on. The Government have no idea of abolishing the Superintendent's post. We are considering the question of appointing a qualified Superintendent for the place. Until we select the man, it is necessary to go on with the work of the department. It is not the intention of Government to keep the post vacant for ever. The Pandit Assistant is qualified to carry out the routine work of the department.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Do the Government believe that there is still a lot of work to be done by the department?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): By the department as a whole or by the present staff?

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): By the department as a whole.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): The department, as a whole, has a lot of work more to do.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Is it not mere speculation to say so?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): It is not mere speculation. It was the opinion expressed by a large number of Members in this House.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil*): Is it the intention of Government to appoint a qualified Superintendent when one is available?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Shall I put the demand to the vote of the House?

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I withdraw my opposition.

The motion was carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XX- PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 11,910 under Demand XX. This comprises the following items:—

(*a*) Rs. 2,000 for improvements to the Vernacular High School buildings at Trivandrum.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly